

Report of the Third Annual Session

OF THE

Federation of Organized Trades and Labor  
Unions of the United States  
and Canada

HELD IN

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

August 21, 22, 23 and 24

1883

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FEDERATION  
OF  
Organized Trades and Labor Unions  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

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**Declaration of Principles.**

**PREAMBLE.**

WHEREAS, A struggle is going on in the nations of the civilized world between the oppressors and the oppressed of all countries,—a struggle between the capitalist and the laborer, which grows in intensity from year to year, and will work disastrous results to the toiling millions of all nations if not combined for mutual protection and benefit; and

WHEREAS, The history of the wage-workers of all countries is but the history of constant struggle and misery engendered by ignorance and disunion; and

WHEREAS, The history of the non-producers of all ages proves that a minority, thoroughly organized, may work wonders for good or evil:—

It therefore behooves the representatives of the workers of North America, in Congress assembled, to adopt such measures and disseminate such principles among the people of our country as will unite them, for all time to come, to secure the recognition of the rights to which they are justly entitled. Conforming to the old adage, "In union there is strength," the formation of a Federation embracing every trade and labor organization in North America, a union founded upon a basis as broad as the land we live in, is our greatest hope; for the past history of trades unions proves that small organizations, well conducted, have accomplished great good, yet that their efforts have not been of that lasting character which a thorough unification of all the different branches of industrial workers is bound to secure.

Conforming to the spirit of the times, and to the necessities of the industrial classes, we make the following

**PLATFORM.**

1. The National Eight Hour Law is one intended to benefit labor, and to relieve it partly of its heavy burdens, and the evasion of its true spirit and intent is contrary to the best interests of the nation. We therefore demand the enforcement of said law in the spirit of its designers.

2. We demand the passage of laws in State Legislatures and in Congress for the incorporation of Trades and Labor Unions, in order that the property of the laboring classes may have the same protection as the property of other classes.

3. We demand the passage of such Legislative enactments as will enforce, by compulsion, the education of children; for if the State has the right to exact certain compliance with its demands, then it is also the duty of the State to educate its people to the proper understanding of such demands.

4. We demand the passage of laws in the several states forbidding the employment of children under the age of fourteen years, in any capacity, under penalty of fine and imprisonment.

5. We demand the enactment of uniform apprentice laws throughout the country; that the apprentice to a mechanical trade may be made to serve a sufficient term of apprenticeship, and be provided by his employer, in his progress to maturity, with proper and sufficient facilities to finish him as a competent workman.

6. It is hereby declared the sense of this Congress that convict or prison labor, as applied to the contract system in several of the States, is a species of slavery in its worst form: it pauperizes labor, demoralizes the honest manufacturer, and degrades the very criminal whom it employs; and, as many articles of use and consumption made in our prisons under the contract system come directly and detrimentally in competition with the products of honest labor, we demand that the laws providing for labor under the contract systems herein complained of be repealed.

7. What is known as the "order" or "truck" system of payment, instead of lawful currency as value for labor performed, is one not only of gross imposition, but of downright swindle to the honest laborer and mechanic, and we demand its entire abolition. Active measures should be taken to eradicate the evil by the passage of laws imposing fine and imprisonment upon all individuals, firms, or corporations who continue to practice the same.

8. We demand the passage of such laws as will secure to the mechanic and workman the first lien upon property, the product of his

labor, sufficient in all cases to justify his legal and just claims.

9. We demand the repeal and erasure from the statute books of all acts known as conspiracy laws, as applied to organizations of labor in the regulation of wages.

10. We recognize the wholesome effects of a Bureau of Labor Statistics as created in several States; and we demand the passage of an act establishing a National Bureau of Labor Statistics, and recommend for its management the appointment of a proper person, identified with the laboring classes of the country.

11. We demand the passage of a law by the United States Congress to prevent the importation of all foreign laborers under contract.

12. We declare that the system of letting out Government work by contract tends to intensify the competition between workmen; and we demand the speedy abolishment of the same.

13. We demand the passage, by our various Legislative bodies, of an Employers' Liability Act, which shall give employees the same right to damages for personal injuries that all other persons have.

14. We recommend all trades and labor organizations to secure proper representation in all law-making bodies, by means of the ballot, and to use all honorable measures by which this result can be accomplished.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY RESOLUTIONS.

1. That we urge upon the Legislatures of our several States the passage of laws of license upon stationary engineers, and the enforcement of proper restrictions, which will better preserve and render protection to life and property.

2. That we demand strict laws for the inspection and ventilation of mines, factories, and workshops, and sanitary supervision of all food and dwellings.

#### ORGANIZATION.

##### ARTICLE I.—NAME.

This association shall be known as "The Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States of America and Canada," and shall consist of such Trades and Labor Unions as shall, after being duly admitted, conform to its rules and regulations, and pay all contributions required to carry out the objects of this Federation.

##### ARTICLE II.—OBJECTS.

The objects of this Federation shall be:—  
Section 1. The encouragement and formation of Trades and Labor Unions.

Sec. 2. The encouragement and formation of Trades and Labor Assemblies or Councils.

Sec. 3. The encouragement and formation of State and Provincial Federations of Trades and Labor Unions.

Sec. 4. The encouragement and formation of National and International Trades Unions.

Sec. 5. To secure legislation favorable to the interests of the industrial classes.

##### ARTICLE III.—SESSIONS.

The sessions of the Federation shall be held annually, on the first Tuesday in October, at such place as the delegates have selected at the preceding Congress.

##### ARTICLE IV.—REPRESENTATION.

The basis of representation in the Congress of this Federation shall be: From National or

International Unions, for 1,000 members or less, one delegate; for 4,000, two delegates; for 8,000, three delegates; for 16,000, four delegates; for 32,000, five delegates; and so on. For State or Provincial Federations of Trades unions, two delegates. From local Trades Assemblies or Councils, District Assemblies of the Knights of Labor, or Local Trades Unions, one delegate. But no local Trades Union shall be entitled to representation which has not been organized six months prior to the session of this body.

##### ARTICLE V.—OFFICERS.

Section 1. At the annual session of the Federation the delegates shall elect a Legislative Committee of nine, consisting of the President, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer.

Sec. 2. In the election of officers the election of Secretary shall take precedence.

##### ARTICLE VI.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

The duty of the Legislative Committee shall be to exercise a supervision over the organization, and the execution of its laws, and to carry out such instructions as may from time to time be given them at the sessions of this Federation.

##### ARTICLE VII.—REVENUE.

Section 1. The revenue of this Federation shall be derived from each National or International Trade or Labor Union, and each Trades Assembly or Council, or District Assembly of the Knights of Labor affiliated with this Federation; and shall be assessed upon the following basis: For 1,000 members or less, \$10 per annum; 1,000 to 4,000, \$20; 4,000 to 8,000, \$25; 8,000 to 12,000, \$30; 12,000 to 20,000, \$40; over 20,000, \$50.

Sec. 2. Local Trades Unions may be entitled to representation upon payment of \$10 per annum.

Sec. 3. State or Provincial Federations of Trades Unions shall pay \$10 per annum for each delegate sent by them to the sessions of this Federation.

##### ARTICLE VIII.—ACCOUNTS.

The accounts of the year shall be closed fourteen days prior to the assembling of the Congress, and a balance sheet duly certified and presented to the same.

##### ARTICLE IX.—REMUNERATION.

The remuneration for loss of time by the Legislative Committee shall be at the rate of \$3 per diem; traveling and incidental expenses to be also defrayed.

#### STANDING ORDERS.

1. The annual meeting of this Federation shall be held on the first Tuesday in October, at such place as the delegates to the preceding Congress may have selected.

2. The time of the meeting shall be as follows: On the first day, to assemble at noon; on all other days, at 9 A. M.; adjourn at 12:30; reassemble at 1:30; and adjourn at 5 P. M. each day.

3. At the opening of the Congress the Chairman of the Legislative Committee shall take the chair until the Congress has elected its own President, which shall be its first business. The

Congress shall then elect a Vice-President, two Secretaries, two Auditors, a Doorkeeper and Messenger.

4. A Standing Orders Committee shall then be elected, to whom shall be remitted the whole business of the Congress, the discussions, together with the whole financial arrangements of the Congress.

5. The Congress having been formally opened by the President, the Legislative Committee shall present their report for the past year, which shall be read by the Secretary, and shall be laid on the table for discussion by the Congress; said report shall contain a list of the committee meetings, with dates and names of those present.

6. The reader of a paper shall be allowed twenty minutes; the mover of a resolution, fifteen minutes; succeeding speakers, ten minutes each. No one to speak more than twice on any one subject.

7. No second amendment to an original proposition shall be put to a vote until the amendment is disposed of.

8. No papers shall be read except those which are required for legislative purposes; no member to read more than one paper.

9. All papers shall be sent to the Secretary of the Legislative Committee, at least two weeks before the meeting of the ensuing Congress, the same to be read and arranged by the Committee, in order to facilitate the business of the Congress.

10. Should a vacancy occur in the office of Secretary or Treasurer between the annual meetings of the Congress, the Legislative Committee shall have power to fill the vacancy from their own number.

11. The duties of the Legislative Committee shall be to watch legislative measures directly affecting the question of labor; to initiate, whenever necessary, such legislative action as the Congress may direct, or as the exigencies of the time and circumstances may demand.

12. No candidate shall be elected on the Legislative Committee unless he is a delegate from his own trade society, or represents a Trades Council; and the body so represented must have contributed its capitation tax during the year previous to his nomination.

13. All surplus moneys, after the payment of the expenses of the Congress, shall be handed over to the Treasurer of the Legislative Committee, for the general purposes of such committee.

14. The Legislative Committee shall assist and co-operate with the Local Committee of the city where the next Congress is to be held, for the purpose of making the arrangements as complete as possible, and preparing the questions to be discussed, and together to take such joint action as the business or other special circumstances of the time may render necessary or desirable.

15. A sub-committee of the Legislative Committee, consisting of the Secretary and Treasurer, shall meet, two days before the meeting of each Congress, to arrange matters for the Congress.

16. The Legislative Committee shall be members of the succeeding Congress, from which they have been credited, but without a vote.

#### RULES.

1. At the appointed time the Chairman shall call the Congress to order.

2. During the hours of meeting no delegate

will be allowed to leave the room, unless on special business.

3. Every delegate, when he rises to speak, shall respectfully address the Chair. While speaking, he shall confine himself to the question.

4. Should two or more rise to speak at the same time, the Chair shall decide who is entitled to the floor.

5. No delegate shall interrupt another in his remarks, unless to call him to order for words spoken, or for the purpose of explanation.

6. If a delegate, while speaking, be called to order, he shall, at the request of the Chair, take his seat until the question of order is determined, when, if permitted, he may proceed again.

7. A delegate shall not speak more than once on the same subject or question until all who wish to speak shall have had an opportunity to do so; nor more than twice, without permission from the house, nor any longer than ten minutes at one time.

8. A question shall not be subject to debate until it has been seconded and stated from the Chair, and it shall be reduced to writing at the request of any member.

9. When a question is before the house, no motion shall be in order, except to adjourn, for the previous question, to postpone indefinitely, to postpone for a certain time, to divide, to commit, or to amend; which motions shall severally have precedence in the order herein arranged.

10. A motion to lay on the table shall be put without debate.

11. A motion for a reconsideration shall not be received, unless made in the same session by a delegate who voted in the majority.

12. Any delegate who shall misbehave himself in the meeting, or disturb the harmony or order thereof, either by abusive, disorderly, or profane language, or shall refuse obedience to the presiding officer, shall be admonished of his offence from the Chair, and, if he offend again, he shall be excluded from the room for the session, and afterward dealt with as the Congress may determine.

#### DELEGATES TO THIRD ANNUAL SESSION.

Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Etc.—W. W. McClelland, 335 West Thirteenth street, New York.

Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America—Gabriel Edmonston, 719 Twelfth street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Cigar-makers' International Union—Fred Blend, Evansville, Ind.; Hyman Phillips, 54 East Sixth street, Cincinnati, Ohio; Samuel Gompers, 1313 Second Avenue, New York.

German-American Typographia—Jean Weil, 520 East 154th street, New York.

International Typographical Union—E. M. Slack, Times Office, Columbus, Ohio; L. P. McCormack, 142 Davidson street, Indianapolis Ind.; Albert H. Jones, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Lake Seamen's Union—Richard Powers, 99 West Randolph street, Chicago, Ill.

National Mule Spinners' Association—Robert Howard, Box 203, Fall River, Mass.

Women's National Labor League—Mrs. Charlotte Smith, 721 Twelfth street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Federation of Labor of the District of Columbia—A. D. Brock, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Workingmen's Assembly of the State of New York—George Blair, 13 York street, New York.  
Boston Central Trades and Labor Union—Frank K. Foster, 10 Wendell street, Cambridge, Mass.

Chicago Trade and Labor Assembly—P. H. McLogan, Daily News Composing Room, Chicago, Ill.

Cincinnati Trades and Labor Assembly—M. D. Connolly, 318 Madison street, Covington, Ky.

New York Amalgamated Trades and Labor Union—Kenneth Mackenzie, 17 East Seventh street, New York; alternate, Herman Gutstadt, 551 Clinton street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Bookbinders' Protective Association of New York—Joseph Ward, 202 Ainsley street, Brooklyn, E. D., N. Y.

Bricklayers' Union, No. 4, of New York—William C. Anderson, 410 West Fifty-sixth street, New York.

Cigar-makers' Union, No. 17, of Cleveland, Ohio—William C. Pollner, 176 Bridge street, Cleveland, Ohio.

Cigar-makers' Union, No. 144, of New York—John H. Fraser, 737 Second Avenue, New York.

Columbia Typographical Union, No. 101, of Washington, D. C.—John H. O'Brien, Star Office, Washington, D. C.

Journeyman Bookbinders' Society of Washington, D. C.—H. S. Linker, 130 East Eleventh street, S. E. Washington, D. C.

Granite-Cutters' Union, No. 2, of New York—John Rogers, 10 Stanton street, New York City.

Typographical Union, No. 61, of Cambridge, Mass.—C. H. Bradley, Boston Stereotype Foundry, Boston, Mass.

#### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.

Chairman—P. H. McLogan (Chicago Trades Assembly), Daily News composing room, Chicago, Ill.

First Vice-Chairman—Samuel Gompers (International Cigar-makers), 1313 Second Ave., New York City.

Second Vice-Chairman—Gabriel Edmonston (Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners), 719 Twelfth street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Third Vice-Chairman—M. D. Connolly (Cincinnati Trades and Labor Assembly), 318 Madison street, Covington, Ky.

Fourth Vice-Chairman—Richard Powers (Lake Seamen's Association), 99 West Randolph street, Chicago, Ill.

Fifth Vice-Chairman—W. W. McClelland (Amalgamated Society of Engineers, etc.), 335 West Thirteenth street, New York City.

Sixth Vice-Chairman—Capt. E. M. Slack (International Typographical Union), Times Office, Columbus, O.

Treasurer—Robert Howard (National Mule Spinners), Box 203, Fall River, Mass.

Secretary—Frank K. Foster (Boston Central Trades and Labor Union), 10 Wendell street, Cambridge, Mass.

## REPORT. FIRST DAY—Morning Session.

New York City, Aug. 21, 1883.

The Third Annual Session of the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada met in Turn Hall, East Fourth street, New York City, at noon on the above date, Samuel Gompers, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, presiding.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie, the Congress adjourned until 2 P. M., after appointing the Legislative Committee to act as a Committee on Credentials.

### Afternoon Session.

At 2 P. M. the Federation reassembled, and Mr. Samuel Gompers addressed the delegates in fitting terms.

The Legislative Committee, acting as a Committee on Credentials, then made the following report:

New York, Aug. 21, 1883.

To the officers and delegates of the Federation of Trades and Labor Unions:

Gentlemen: Your Legislative Committee report the following organizations entitled to representation by the persons named: (See pp. 5 and 6.)

SAMUEL GOMPERS,  
R. POWERS,  
R. HOWARD,  
G. EDMONSTON,  
W. H. FOSTER,  
Committee.

The report was received, and the delegates named therein declared entitled to seats in the convention.

Mr. Samuel Gompers, of New York, was nominated as President of the Congress, and on motion was elected by acclamation.

On assuming the chair, the President declared the next business to be the election of Vice-President.

Messrs. F. K. Foster and W. C. Pollner were appointed tellers, and A. H. Jones inspector.

Messrs. Richard Powers and J. H. O'Brien were placed in nomination for Vice-President.

Mr. Powers was elected, and on motion of Mr. O'Brien this election was made unanimous.

W. C. Pollner, of Cleveland, was elected Secretary, and Mr. W. H. Foster assistant-Secretary.

Messrs. Connolly and O'Brien were elected Auditors.

Mr. Blend asked the privilege to offer a resolution; on motion of F. K. Foster, permission was given. The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLVED, That the President of this Congress is hereby instructed to go before the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, now in session in New York City, and direct their attention to the prevailing rule now in vogue with the Western Union Telegraph Company, compelling the employees of said company, to be oath-bound to certain conditions before allowed employment, thereby destroying every principle of manhood and freedom of action guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, and introducing a servile system of labor as degrading in principle as the slavery of old times.

RESOLVED, That the President of this Congress be instructed to advocate the advisability of the adoption of such Laws as will stamp out this nefarious practice, by making it a criminal offence.

The resolutions were adopted as read.

The Chair appointed the following committee on Standing Orders: Gabriel Edmonston, Hyman Phillips, P. H. McLogan, W. B. Anderson, and E. M. Slack.

Mr. O'Brien asked the same privilege (of offering a resolution), and it was granted, after a suspension of the rules.

The Resolution (which recommended the division of dividends, over a certain amount, among employees) was, on motion of Mr. Phillips, referred to the Committee on Standing Orders.

Mrs. Charlotte Smith, of Washington, D. C., president of the Women's National Labor League, was introduced by Mr. Edmonston, with a statement that she was authorized to represent said League, but had not been provided with credentials. On motion, she was admitted to a seat.

On motion of Mr. McLogan the Legislative Committee was allowed time till Wednesday morning to report.

Mr. McCelland moved that the rules of the last session govern the present session. Carried.

Mrs. Smith was invited by the Chair to make a statement in reference to the lady telegraph operators who were blacklisted.

Mrs. Smith briefly explained the situation, concluding by asking that Jay Gould be boycotted.

Mr. Powers called attention to mistatements of Mr. Mitchell, and handed in communications and papers on the subject. Referred to Committee on Standing Orders.

Mr. Blair offered a resolution, setting aside Thursday morning for the discussion of the general principles of the labor movement, and inviting the Senate Committee on Education and Labor to be present.

Discussion ensued, in which Messrs. McLogan, F. K. Foster, Connolly, Blend, O'Brien, Brock, Mackenzie, Edmonston, Anderson, Powers, and Blair participated.

Mr. Brock moved, as a substitute for the resolution, that a committee of ten be appointed to prepare a statement of the labor problem for the attention of the Senate Committee, and that it be offered by this body to that committee, and the chairman of said committee from this Congress be empowered to detail such persons to appear before the Senate Committee, to the number of two daily, as may appear best calculated to accomplish the desires of united labor in the premises.

Mr. O'Brien moved to refer the resolution and substitute to the Committee on Standing Orders. Carried.

Adjourned till 9 A. M. Wednesday.

W. C. POLLNER, Secretary.

## SECOND DAY—Morning Session.

The Congress was called to order at 9 A. M. President Compers in the chair. The roll of officers and delegates was called, and absentees noted. The minutes of Tuesday were read and approved.

The credentials of Herman Gutstadt, as alternate for Kenneth Mackenzie, of the Amalgamated Trades and Labor Union of New York and vicinity, and also the credentials from Granite Cutters' Union No. 2, of John Rogers, were handed it. Both delegates were admitted.

The Legislative Committee then presented the following report:

New York, Aug. 22, 1883.

To the Officers and Delegates of the Federation of Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada:

Gentlemen: Your Legislative Committee report, that since our session in Cleveland very encouraging progress has been made in the formation of local unions, the various national and international unions announcing the institution of numerous new branches, as well as increasing membership in those previously established. Several new organizations of a na-

tional or international character have advanced from a temporary position to a permanent basis. Your committee aided in this work wherever possible, and we confidently expected that some of the unions referred to would participate in this Congress. In most instances, as the Secretary has been informed, the very limited amount of funds at their command is the cause of their absence. The National Union of Journeymen Plasterers has tendered thanks to your committee for efforts which have served to strengthen their organization. We have endeavored to add branches to the National Association of Wood Carvers, and hope to see that body in good and permanent shape when it meets in October next. A convention aiming at the formation of a National Union of shoemakers is to assemble at Rochester, N. Y., during the present week; and all Tailors' Unions are invited to a meeting in Philadelphia on September 15th, with the object of uniting that craft into one body. The Secretary has been in communication with the leading unionists of several cities, looking toward the formation of Trades Assemblies, giving instructions how to proceed, and furnishing sample copies of constitutions. Several of these Assemblies have been successfully established during our term.

Soon after the adjournment of the Cleveland session, the Secretary forwarded to President Arthur the Eight-Hour resolution introduced at our Congress by Mr. Murch, and received an acknowledgment of receipt of the same.

#### EIGHT-HOUR BILL, ETC.

The Secretary prepared a rough draft of a Bill for the Incorporation of National Trade Unions, which was forwarded to Mr. Edmonston, of your Committee, in Washington, who had the document revised by a constitutional lawyer, after which (January 25th) it was introduced in Congress by Mr. Murch. A somewhat similar Bill, amended from the above, and more general in its operation, has been offered by Senator Blair, of New Hampshire, and that gentleman promises to push it forward at the next session of the United States Congress. Our successors should be directed to urge its passage.

The Bill for the Better Protection of Life and Property on the Lakes is in the same position as when we last met; but Congress did not continue in session a sufficient length of time after our Cleveland meeting to allow much to be done by your committee in favor of the Bill.

As you are doubtless aware, the Bill to Abolish Cigar-making in Tenement Houses has at last been passed into law by the New York Legislature.

The members of your committee, several delegates and ex-delegates of the Federation and friends of the Trades-Union movement in quite a number of States, have been hard at work urging the enactment of measures favorable to our cause. In Ohio the Bill to Abolish Convict Labor Contracts was defeated on account of an amendment by the Senate which the House refused to concur in; but it will be reintroduced at the next session. The same Legislature has passed a fair Lien Law. New Jersey now legalizes Trades Unions, prohibits infant labor in factories, and requires prison-made goods to be plainly marked or stamped as having been made in such institutions. Pennsylvania has abolished prison-labor contracts, and requires prison-made goods to be plainly

requires prison-made goods to be plainly marked. In Maine, Mr. Robert Howard, of your committee, secured the introduction of a Ten-hour Bill for women and children. The measure was not favored by the committee having it in charge; but it was eventually passed in a modified form, which prohibits the employment in mills of children under twelve years old. In Michigan a large number of Bills, which affect labor interests, have been introduced, the following having been enacted: Compulsory Education of Children; Lien Law; Establishment of a Bureau of Labor Statistics; Protection of Railroad Employees, etc., at Switches and Crossings; Incorporation of Assemblies of K. of L. A Bill is still pending to Encourage Co-operative Associations, and a Ten-hour Bill and Employers' Liability Bill are in the same category. New York has created a Bureau of Labor Statistics; and, although the appropriation is insufficient to carry it on with the best prospective results, it is a degree of satisfaction that it has been established at all. The question of abolishing Convict Contract Labor is also to be submitted to the people in this State.

In Massachusetts the scope of the Ten-hour Law has been extended, by additional enactment, so that its provisions now apply to all industrial establishments. The Bill compelling chartered corporations to pay their employees weekly, and the Employers' Liability Act, have been agitated in the Legislature, and have commanded increased attention from the lawmakers.

You are no doubt informed as to the defeat of Senator Anthony's Bill to Expel Union Printers from the Government Printing-office. In this matter Mr. Edmonston represented us as a sub-committee, as well as on several other occasions when we wished to be heard in Washington.

#### SALE OF PROCEEDINGS.

We have again to report a loss on the printing of the Proceedings, less than half of the copies printed having been sold. Whether it would be wiser to issue them in future in a cheaper form, without covers, or merely to issue a brief synopsis gratis, is for you to decide.

It was our intention to circulate extensively, during our term of office, tracts and brief pamphlets, with the object of educating the toilers up to Trade Unionism and the aims of the Federation; but up to very recently we were without funds, and are consequently obliged to bequeath this work to our successors.

#### THANKS DUE TO FRIENDS OF LABOR.

We desire to thank the numerous journals which have expressed themselves as friendly to the Federation; Hon. T. Murch for his efforts in Congress; Hon. Mr. Klotz, of Pennsylvania, for energetic work in behalf of the Bill to Incorporate National Trade Unions; Hon. Lyman A. Brant, for his service to our cause in the Michigan Legislature; Hon. J. B. McCamant, Chief of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Industrial Statistics, for copies of Bills in relation to convict labor; also, many able supporters in every direction who have aided us in our work.

#### A MISUNDERSTANDING OF OUR POSITION.

At the recent convention in Philadelphia of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, That we do not federate with the organization known as the Federation of



Organized Trades and Labor Unions. Holding, as we do, opposite views on the protective tariff policies of our Government, it could not redound to our benefit to have any such connection."

Your committee deems it proper to state that, while organizations are privileged to join or keep aloof from the Federation, the reason given in the resolution in question for the non-affiliation with us of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers is not well founded. The Federation includes under its jurisdiction men holding the same tariff views as the Amalgamated Association; and the fact that our platform is silent on the question is a guarantee against discord on that subject.

#### INJUDICIOUS INTERFERENCE.

While the proselytizing of Trades-Unions, referred to at our last session, has somewhat abated, and has not been done so openly as to give us the means of making definite charges against so-called organizers, we are satisfied that over-zealous partisans continue efforts detrimental to that harmony which should exist between labor organizations, and we express our disapprobation of their course.

#### WORK DONE BY WASHINGTON FEDERATION.

The authority delegated by this Federation to the Federation of the District of Columbia to act in your name has been productive of apparent good; for to that body is due the special duties imposed by Congress on the Senate Committee on Education and Labor. The investigation by the Senate Committee is being impartially conducted; and the results, if any, must be favorable. We hope for good measures at their hands.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

Your committee recommend that our successors be authorized to relieve distress among the workers, by means of organization; and to that end official organizers should be appointed, especially in New England.

We recommend that the Federation offer a prize of \$50 for the best essay on Trades-Unions and Strikes, the incoming Legislative Committee to act as judges and award the prize. We further recommend that said essay be not less than eight nor more than twenty-four pages of the size of our Cleveland Report, and that the same be printed and sold at cost by the Legislative Committee.

We ask the Federation to direct the Legislative Committee to impress upon all unions the importance of attaching beneficial and benevolent features to their organizations.

Hoping our labors will meet with your approval, we respectfully subscribe ourselves,

SAMUEL GOMPERS,  
RICHARD POWERS,  
ROBERT HOWARD,  
G. EDMONSTON,  
W. H. FOSTER, Secretary

On motion, the Report of the Legislative Committee was received, and laid upon the table for future discussion.

#### UNIFICATION OF LABOR.

The Committee on Standing Orders reported as follows:

New York, Aug. 22, 1883.

To the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada:

Your Committee on Standing Orders, to whom was referred a communication from

A. M. Kennedy, President of the Federation of Labor of Washington, D. C., making the following suggestions and resolutions:

WHEREAS, There are many thousands of organized associations of workmen scattered throughout the land, now being grouped together in various forms of centralization—no one of which groups, however, having a prescriptible right, recognized by the others, to monopolize the absolute control and government of the whole body of laborers, though all professing an earnest desire for the unification of their strength,—common-sense, therefore, and common justice to the men and women enrolled in those societies, indicate clearly that the leaders of said groups should earnestly seek to reconcile their conflicting views, and combine their respective forces around an agreed center, to meet a compact and powerful adversary. Therefore,—

BE IT RESOLVED by the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada, in Convention assembled. That it is absolutely essential to a successful resistance to the combined power of capital that the laboring elements of the whole population should be joined in one United Federation of Labor, based on the broadest principles of justice to all men of good will who contribute to the general welfare of humanity by useful labor.

RESOLVED, Further, That all such international associations may be entitled to representation in the Congress or Federation known as the United Federation of Labor, whose object shall be to provide and put in operation the requisite political machinery to secure by legal enactments, through State and national legislatures, full protection to labor against the encroachments of organized capital, availing itself of such instrumentalities as are tolerated by law and usage.

Your Committee would recommend the adoption of the above preamble and resolutions, as amended, as also the adoption of the following:

RESOLVED, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with the Knights of Labor, and other kindred labor organizations, with a view to a thorough unification and consolidation of the working-people throughout the country.

[Signed by the Committee.]

The Report was received, and, on motion of Mr. Charles Bradley, it was taken up for discussion; the Convention first resolving itself into a Committee of the Whole, Mr. J. H. Fraser in the chair.

After debate, participated in by Messrs. McLogan, Bradley, Gompers, Rogers, Gutstadt, Phillips, Anderson, F. K. Foster, Blend, Brock, and O'Brien, the first resolution was adopted.

Mr. Samuel Gompers then offered the following, as a substitute for the second and third resolutions of the report:

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Committee is hereby instructed to enter into immediate correspondence with the proper officers of national and international Labor organizations of all descriptions, for the purpose of obtaining their views upon what basis a more thorough unification of the Labor organizations may be accomplished; and the committee are further instructed to submit these views and

answers to the next session of this Federation.

It was moved and carried that the Committee of the Whole rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again. President Samuel Gompers resumed the chair, and the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole reported in accordance with instructions. Leave to sit again was granted.

#### APPEAL TO WORKING-WOMEN.

On motion of Mr. F. K. Foster, it was resolved to appoint a committee of three for the purpose of drafting an appeal to the working-women of the country, urging them to organize. The Chair appointed as such committee Mrs. Charlotte Smith, and Messrs. F. K. Foster and F. Blend.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR.

The Committee on Standing Orders then submitted the following resolutions; the first presented by Mr. Blair, of New York, and the second by Mr. Block, of Washington:

RESOLVED, That on Thursday, from 9 to 12 o'clock, this Federation of labor, now in National Convention assembled, go into committee of the Whole to discuss general principles; and the Secretary is directed to invite the United States Senate Committee on Education and Labor, now in session in this city, to be present on such occasion.

RESOLVED, That a committee of ten be appointed to present to the Senate Committee on Education and Labor the wants of this Convention, and detail two members each day to give testimony before the Senate Committee.

The Committee on Standing Orders presented the following as a substitute for the two foregoing resolutions:

That a committee of [ ] be appointed to present the views of this Congress, when formulated, to the United States Senate Congressional Committee on Education and Labor; and that, pending such action by said committee, such members of the Congress as may desire to present the grievances of their respective trades or occupations to the Senate Committee, in accordance with the invitation of the said committee, be requested to appear before said committee and give testimony.

[Signed by Committee.]

The substitute was adopted.

#### POLITICAL DEMANDS.

The Committee on Standing Orders then presented the following, submitted to them by Mr. Gabriel Edmonston, of Washington:—

RESOLVED, That a committee be appointed to attend the next National conventions of the two great political parties, and in the name of the organized workmen of the United States demand the incorporation in their platform of principles their position on the enforcement of the eight-hour law, the incorporation of national

trade organizations, and the establishment of a national bureau of labor statistics.

On motion, the discussion of the resolution was made the special order of business for 2 o'clock, P. M.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT.

On motion, the rules were suspended; and the Treasurer, Mr. Robert Howard, presented the following Financial Report for the preceding year:—

#### RECEIPTS.

1882.	
Nov. 28. Balance on hand.....	\$ 35.95
Dec. 12. National Granite Cutters' Union, per capita .....	60.00
Dec. 24. San Francisco Trades Assembly, per capita, '81.....	16.20
1883.	
Feb. 20. Cleveland Cigar-makers' Union No. 17, representation fee....	10.00
Apr. 3. Sale of Proceedings (per W. H. Foster) .....	20.00
June 1. Sale of Proceedings (per Robert Howard).....	4.00
June 22. International Typographical Union, per capita .....	211.33
July 1. National Spinners' Union, per capita .....	8.00
July 31. German-American Typographical Union, per capita.....	6.00
July 31. International Cigar-makers' Union, per capita .....	129.10
Aug. 7. Lake Seaman's Union, per capita .....	40.00
Aug. 20. Boston Central Trades and Labor Union, per capita.....	7.00
Aug. 21. Cigar-makers' Union, No. 144 (New York City), rep. fee.....	10.00
Aug. 21. Bookbinders' Protective Union, New York City, rep. fee.....	10.00
Aug. 21. New York State Assembly, rep. fee .....	10.00
Aug. 21. Typographical Union, No. 61, Cambridge, rep. fee.....	10.00
Aug. 21. Bricklayers' Union, No. 4, rep. fee .....	10.00
Aug. 21. Granite-Cutters' Union, New York City, rep. fee.....	10.00
Aug. 21. Amalgamated Society of Engineers, etc., per capita.....	25.06
Aug. 21. Chicago Trades Assembly, per capita ..	15.00
Aug. 21. Cincinnati Trades Assembly, per capita .....	23.55
Aug. 21. Brotherhood Carpenters and Joiners, per capita .....	12.00
Aug. 21. Columbus (Ohio) Trades Assembly, per capita .....	10.00
Aug. 21. New York Amalgamated Trade and Labor Union, per capita ..	5.05
Aug. 21. Woman's Industrial League, Washington, D. C., per capita...	2.00
Aug. 21. Sale of Proceedings, per W. H. Foster .....	5.00
Aug. 21. Sale of Proceedings, in Washington .....	.90
Aug. 21. Washington Bookbinders' Union, rep fee .....	10.00
Aug. 21. Washington Federation of Labor Unions .....	10.00
Total receipts.....	\$726.14

\*This financial statement has been amended so as to present a summary of receipts and expenditures up to the close of the New York session.—Treas.

EXPENDITURES.	
1882.	
Dec. 6. Attorney, for drawing up of bond .....	1.00
Dec. 6. Stamps and stationery .....	1.00
Dec. 6. Charles Burgman, labor .....	6.00
Dec. 30. G. D. Landman, 2 reams of letterheads ..	11.00
1883.	
Jan. 28. G. D. Landman, 2,000 letter printing ..	9.00
Jan. 28. W. H. Foster, miscellaneous expenses ..	17.68
Feb. 1. W. H. Foster, 8 days' labor ..	24.00
Apr. 3. G. D. Landman, printing Federation Reports ..	50.00
Apr. 3. G. D. Landman, printing Reports ..	20.00
Apr. 3. Cost of order .....	.25
June 12. Cost of expressing Reports and telegram .....	.65
June 23. G. D. Landman, printing Reports ..	45.00
June 23. Cost of sending order .....	.25
June 28. Receipt book and box of envelopes .....	2.15
June 28. G. D. Landman, printing circulars and credentials ..	7.00
June 28. Cost of order and expresses, Lake Seamen's Union .....	.35
June 28. Stationery .....	.30
June 28. Robert Howard, for labor, etc. ....	5.00
June 28. Samuel Gompers, for loss of time, etc. ....	13.00
June 28. W. H. Foster, miscellaneous expenses ..	22.04
June 28. Gabriel Edmonston, loss of time, etc. ....	15.65
June 28. Rent for Turn Hall .....	20.00
June 28. Valise for Secretary's use ..	4.00

June 28. Richard Powers, expenses...\$ 2.00  
 June 28. W. H. Foster, expenses to convention .. 75.00

Total expenditures to Aug. 24, 1883...\$352.32  
 Total income to Aug. 24, 1883...\$226.14  
 352.32

Balance on hand.....\$373.82

ROBERT HOWARD,

Treasurer of Federation.

The report of the Treasurer was received, audited, and ordered spread upon the minutes.

The following communication was received from the clerk of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor:—

UNITED STATES SENATE.

New York City, Aug. 22, 1883.

Samuel Gompers, Esq.,  
 President Federation of Trades:—

My Dear Sir:—Will you kindly send me word by bearer, whether your honorable body will send any witnesses here tomorrow, their names, and whether the Senate Committee can rely upon their presence? It is the wish of the committee to hear as many of your representatives as possible.

Very truly yours,

J. KIMBALL, JR., Clerk, Committee.

Messrs. McLogan, Edmonston, McClelland, and Rogers, were deputed as witnesses in compliance with the request contained in the communication.

Noon recess.

## SECOND DAY—Afternoon Session.

The Convention was called to order at the regular hour, President Gompers in the chair.

The roll was called, and absentees noted.

The special order of business for two o'clock being the discussion of the resolutions of Mr. Edmonston relative to political action, the resolution was called up.

Mr. Guststadt offered as a substitute for the proposition to send a committee, that the Legislative Committee be directed to send a letter formulating our demands. Carried.

### GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPHY.

Mr. McLogan, of the Committee on Standing Orders, then presented the following, submitted by the Trades Assembly of Chicago:—

WHEREAS, The experience of the people of the United States for the last month has convinced them of the danger to the business interests of the country if corporations are allowed to control the only system answering the demands of the age for transacting business by

quick communication; and, owing to no competition, allowed to charge what they please, and discriminate against whom they please, and

WHEREAS, The organized labor of the country views with alarm the fact that the law of demand for labor is controlled by one corporation in the branch of industry known as telegraphy; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we demand of the American Congress the establishment of a postal-telegraph system, on a self-supporting basis; that the people may transact their business through a rapid system of communication, at an expense founded on actual cost of conducting the system, and not be subject to the delays by strikes, or discriminated against by unscrupulous capitalists.

RESOLVED, That we, as organized workmen, submit this proposition as the only carriage for strikes in this branch of industry.

RESOLVED, That our delegate to the Congress of Federated Trade and Labor Unions be and is hereby instructed to submit these resolutions to said Congress, and urge that the Legislative Committee be instructed to put forth all honorable means in their power to have such

a law passed by the Congress of the United States.

RESOLVED, That the Labor Congress urge the organized workmen of the United States to exact pledges from Congressmen in their several districts to not only vote for such a law, but to do all in their power to promote such a measure.

The adoption of the resolutions was favored by Messrs. Connolly, McClelland, Brock, McCormack, and Mrs. Smith, and opposed by Messrs. Fraser and Foster on the ground that it was not a question to be passed upon by trades union organizations.

The yeas and nays were taken upon the adoption of the resolutions, with the following result:—

Yeas.—Blair, Brock, Connolly, Howard, Jones, Linker, McClelland, McCormack, McLogan, O'Brien, Pollner, Powers, Rogers, Slack, Smith (Mrs.), Weil.—16.

Nays.—Anderson, Bradlee, Edmonston, Foster, Fraser, Gompers, Gutstadt, Phillips.—8

Not Voting.—3.

The Convention then resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, Delegate Fraser in the chair, and discussion ensued upon the substitute previously offered by Mr. Gompers for the Report of the Committee on Standing Orders relative to endeavoring to amalgamate all labor societies.

The substitute was advocated by Messrs. Blend, Gutstadt, Rogers, and Gompers. Mr. McCormack said that something more definite should be done, as the mode proposed by Mr. Gompers would necessitate too long a delay.

Mr. F. K. Foster offered the following as an amendment to the substitute:—

That the Legislative Committee have power to appoint sub-committees in various sections of the country for the purpose of conferring with representatives of other labor organizations, etc.

The amendment was carried by a vote of nineteen to three; and the substitute, as amended, was adopted.

The Committee of the Whole then rose, and the report of the Chairman was adopted.

#### THANKS TO SENATORS.

Special permission was given Mr. H. S. Linker to introduce a series of resolutions, which, after having been read and amended, were adopted in the following form:—

RESOLVED by the Federation of Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada, in Congress assembled, That the thanks of this Assembly are due and are hereby tendered to Hon. Daniel W. Voorhees, United States Senator from the State of Indiana, and Omar D. Conger, United States Senator from the State of Michigan, for their very eloquent and manly defense upon the floor of the United States Senate, February 24, 1883, of the rights, privileges, and objects of trades unions.

RESOLVED, That we recognize in Senators Voorhees and Conger true and tried friends in the cause of labor, and as such we recommend them to our fellow-workingmen.

In connection with the above resolution, Mr. Brock read letters of Senators Voorhees and Conger, addressed to the printers' and bookbinders' unions of Washington.

Mr. McLogan moved that the first business on Thursday mornin'g, after confirmation of the minutes, be the consideration of the Report of the Legislative Committee, and immediately thereafter the Report of the Committee on Standing Orders. So ordered.

The following invitation was read:—

New York, Aug. 22, 1883.

To the Officers and Delegates of the Third Congress of the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada:—

Fellow-Workers:—The Amalgamated Trades and Labor Unions of New York and vicinity, appreciating fully the honor you have conferred upon us in holding your session in the city of New York, and being desirous of manifesting their regard for this honor, hereby tender an invitation to the officers and delegates to attend their Summer-Night's Festival, to be held at the Empire City Coliseum, on Thursday evening, August 23, at 7 o'clock, and also to attend a banquet to be given in your honor at Turner Hall, 66 and 68 East Fourth street, on Friday evening, August 24, at about 8 o'clock.

Very respectfully and fraternally yours,  
KENNETH MACKENZIE, President.  
H. GUTSTADT, Secretary.

On motion of Mr. Richard Powers, the invitation was accepted with thanks.

Adjourned.

### THIRD DAY—Morning Session.

The Congress assembled in Turn Hall at the prescribed time, Vice-President Powers in the chair. Roll called and absentees noted, minutes of Wednesday's session read and approved.

The special order being the report of the Legislative Committee, its reading was called for, but, on motion of Mr. Jones, it was postponed for half an hour.

#### TENEMENT-HOUSE BILL.

The Committee on Standing Orders reported in favor of the following resolution, introduced by Mr. J. H. Fraser:—

WHEREAS, Since the last session of this Labor Congress, the legislators of the State of New York have enacted a law making it a misdemeanor to manufacture cigars in tenement houses in the city of New York, and,

WHEREAS, The employers in this branch of industry have declared a determination to fight to the bitter end the constitutionality of said law, thereby giving another proof to labor of the aggressive power of capital when used in an endeavor to divert and misconstrue the laws enacted for the public interest, and for the purpose of denying labor that recognition to which it is justly entitled, therefore

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Committee be empowered to assist the cigarmakers in their endeavor to have the laws enforced as intended by the legislators of the State.

Adopted.

#### FACTORY OPERATIVES.

Mr. F. K. Foster offered the following resolution:—

RESOLVED That the Legislative Committee be instructed to devote its special effort, the ensuing year, towards organizing the factory operatives of the country.

Mr. Robert Howard then gave a vivid description of the condition of the mill operatives of New England.

Mr. Gutstadt offered an amendment to the resolution, as follows:

That the Federation of Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada appeal to the organizations connected with it, and to others in sympathy with its objects, to give whatever financial aid in their power, for the purpose of assisting in the organization of the factory operatives of the country.

Both resolutions were passed.

The Report of the Legislative Committee was then taken up, read, and acted upon.

#### INCORPORATION BILLS.

In connection with the report, Mr. W. H. Foster read a bill introduced by Mr. Thompson H. Murch in the House of Representatives, and another introduced by Mr. Blair in the Senate of the United States.

#### PRINTING PROCEEDINGS.

On the discussion of that part of the report relating to the printing of Proceedings, it was moved by Mr. Gutstadt that 2,000 copies be printed, and sold for five cents per copy.

The motion was amended by Mr. Anderson by striking out the part bearing on the cost, and inserting "and be distributed free."

The amendment was carried, and the original motion as amended adopted.

A motion by Mr. Blair, to appoint a committee of five on ways and means, was agreed to, and Messrs. Blair, Anderson, O'Brien, Gutstadt and Brock, were appointed such committee.

The issuing of tracts and papers, on the labor question, as recommended by the Legislative Committee, was agreed to.

#### ORGANIZERS.

Mr. Jones moved that organizers be appointed by the Legislative Committee in each State. Agreed to.

#### PRIZE FOR ESSAY.

That part of the report referring to offering a prize of \$50 for the best essay on labor and strikes was then discussed. Mr. Richard Powers moved to strike out the \$50 and insert \$100.

Mr. Jones moved "That the two best essays be adopted; one to receive one-third, the other two-thirds of the money."

After considerable debate, participated in by Messrs. Pollner, Blend, Gompers, O'Brien, Brock, and Foster, the amendments were defeated, and the original motion then adopted by a vote of eleven to ten.

#### BENEVOLENT FEATURES.

The recommendation to unions to embody beneficial and benevolent provisions in their constitutions was objected to by Messrs. Connolly and Foster, on the ground that many trade bodies were opposed to making unions insurance societies, and that it should be left to the judgment of individual organizations. Mr. Gompers favored the recommendation, together with Mr. Blend. Mr. Gutstadt said that the Amalgamated Trades and Labor Unions of New York City and vicinity have instructed their delegate to offer a resolution in favor of benevolent features.

The recommendation was adopted. The report as a whole was then adopted as amended.

Noon recess.

### THIRD DAY—Afternoon Session.

The Congress was called to order at the regular time, President Compers in the chair. Roll was called and absentees noted.

#### ADDRESSES.

Mr. F. K. Foster moved that P. J. McGuire, Secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, who was present, be invited to address the Congress. Carried.

Mr. Gutstadt moved that the floor be also allowed the lady telegraphers present. Carried.

Mr. P. J. McGuire then addressed the Congress briefly, giving an outline of the history of amalgamated trade movements in Great Britain and Europe, the work accomplished by them, and the steady growth of organization among working-people. He closed by prophesying a bright and useful future for the Federated Trades of the United States and Canada.

At the close of his remarks, a representative of the striking lady telegraphers made a few interesting statements, showing the arbitrary course pursued by the Western Union Telegraph Company towards its employees, both before, during, and after the strike.

A vote of thanks was unanimously tendered both speakers; and, on motion of Mr. Blend, the New York delegates were constituted a committee to visit the various Unions of the city to solicit aid for the lady telegraph operators yet out of employment.

#### PLAN OF ORGANIZATION.

Mr. F. K. Foster moved that a committee of five be appointed on revision of plan of organization. Motion adopted, and Messrs. F. K. Foster, Linker, Weil, Howard, and Blend were appointed such committee.

#### UNION SEAL.

The following, presented by Mr. Blend, was adopted:—

WHEREAS, The Cigarmakers' International Union of America had adopted a label designated a "Union Label," which is furnished free of charge, in sufficient quantities, to all manufacturers employing union men and women, throughout the United States and Canada, to be pasted on every box containing union-made cigars; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Congress of the Federation of Trades does hereby recommend that all working-men using cigars use all honorable means in their power to promote the objects of said label, by calling for none but union-label cigars, and see that the little blue label is pasted on every box.

RESOLVED, That in order to better promote the objects of this resolution, we respectfully ask all secretaries of labor organizations under any name, to prepare copies of this resolution and post them in their respective meeting places.

#### BUREAU OF STATISTICS.

Mr. Blair offered the following, which was also adopted:—

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Committee be directed to present to the next Congress a bill creating a Department of Industry and Statistics, which shall receive sufficient appropriation of public funds to enable said department to collect information relating to manufactures and labor, condition of working-people here as compared to other countries, amount of capital invested in manufactures, hands employed, condition of working men and women, and such facts as will tend to bring before the United States Congress each year the true condition of industry in all its departments.

RESOLVED, That the machinery shall be put in operation throughout the various Congressional Districts of the country, by the Legislative Committee, when the bill is presented, by which organized labor can bring its influences to bear upon each member of Congress, by urging the importance of their members voting for the bill in question.

#### CONVICT CONTRACT LABOR.

Mr. Compers offered the following, and it was adopted:—

WHEREAS, At the last session of the Legislature of the State of New York the subject-matter of Convict Contract Labor was by law referred to the people, to be voted upon by them at the next election; and

WHEREAS, We regard Convict Contract Labor as antagonistic to free honest labor and the best interests of the people and the State; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Committee are hereby directed to co-operate with the organized workmen of the State of New York, to the end that said law may be adopted by the people, and rid the State of this iniquity

#### STRIKES.

Mr. Pollner offered the following resolution, and it was adopted:—

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Committee keep an account of all strikes occurring in this country during their term of office, ascertain their causes and consequences, for the benefit of trades and labor unions generally, and report on that at the next session of the Federation.

The Federation concurred in the following, offered by Mr. Phillips:—

RESOLVED, That the Federation of Trades and Labor Unions recommend to international national, and local unions the necessity of shortening the hours of labor to eight hours per day.

Mr. Richard Powers then read a communication respecting the telegraphers' strike and the cause of its failure.

The three following resolutions, offered by Mr. Gutstadt, were reported favorably upon by the Committee on Standing Orders, and adopted by the Congress:—

**RESOLVED**, That this Federation of Trades and Labor Unions recommends to the trades and labor unions the necessity of increasing their dues to an extent that will enable them to accumulate a fund sufficient to cope successfully with concentrated capital.

**RESOLVED**, That this Federation of Trades and Labor Unions recommends to all trades and labor unions to adopt beneficial and benevolent features in their organizations, as a means to make organization more permanent and adhesive.

**RESOLVED**, That the Federation of Trades and Labor Unions in convention, consider a system by which one trade can assist another in time of trouble, financially as well as morally, an essential to the permanent organization of this Federation.

A resolution was offered by Mr. Edmonston that when we adjourn it shall be to meet in Washington, D. C.

Mr. Blend moved that the choice of place of meeting be made the special business of Friday, at 11 o'clock, A. M. Amendment lost.

Mr. Blend moved, as an amendment, that St. Louis be the place for the next Congress to meet.

Mr. F. K. Foster moved that the whole matter be laid over to 4:45 P. M., and that the selection of place be by ballot. Carried.

The Committee on Revision of Plan of Organization made the following report:—

New York, Aug. 23, 1883.

To the Officers and Delegates of the Federation of Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada:—

Gentlemen:—Your committee appointed to revise the plan of organization beg leave to recommend the following changes:—

[For full detail of changes see Plan of Organization as printed, pp. 3-5. The principal alterations were the enlarging of the Legislative Committee from five to nine, the changing of the per capita tax to a sliding scale, the making of the officers of the Legislative Committee directly elective by the Congress, the changing of the date of meeting to the first Tuesday in October, and several amendments to rules of order, etc.]

F. K. FOSTER,  
FRED BLEND,  
JEAN WEIL,  
ROBERT HOWARD,  
H. S. LINKER.

The report was adopted.

#### PLACE OF MEETING.

The hour having arrived for choosing the next place of meeting, the following nominations were made:—

St. Louis, by Mr. Blend; Chicago, by Mr. McLogan; Cincinnati, by Mr. Connolly; Washington, by Mr. Brock.

The first ballot resulted as follows: Cincinnati, 3; Washington, 8; Chicago, Ill. 11. No choice.

Cincinnati, having the lowest number of votes, was dropped, and, on the second ballot, Chicago was selected by a vote of 12 to 11.

#### COMMUNICATIONS.

Another communication was received from the Senate Committee, as follows:

United States Senate, Aug. 23, 1883.

Samuel Gompers, President Federation of Trades and Labor Unions:

Dear Sir: The Senate Committee on Education and Labor is desirous of listening to the statements and testimony of the gentlemen composing your body, before their departure from the city; and I will thank you to make known to those residing elsewhere that they will be paid as witnesses in attendance on the committee from tomorrow morning until they have been heard. Those who have been already in attendance upon the committee will be paid as witnesses. I trust that no one will exact from us the trouble of the service of a formal *subpoena*. I hope also that it can be arranged so that some of the gentlemen may be continually before the committee, so that this evidence may be completed tomorrow and Saturday forenoon. It may, however, be necessary that some witnesses remain over the Sabbath, as we consider the testimony from the representative men all over the country, who form your body, very important.

I am truly yours,

H. W. BLAIR, Chairman.

The following telegram was received from the editor of the Paterson "Labor Standard," and ordered spread upon the record:

Paterson, N. J., Aug. 23, 1883.

Samuel Gompers, President Trades Congress:

Greeting to all your members from New Jersey labor unions. This State, though behind in some respects, will yet do good work for national and international trades amalgamation. God speed your glorious work.

J. P. McDONNELL.

Editor "Labor Standard."

Adjourned.



## FOURTH DAY—Morning Session.

The Congress was called to order at the specified time, President Gompers in the chair. Roll called and absentees noted.

Mr. McLogan moved that the election of officers for the ensuing year be made the special order of business for 9:30 A. M. Agreed to.

The following resolution was concurred in:

That the Federation of organized Trade and Labor Unions considers the question of shortening the hours of labor as paramount to all other questions at present, and demands the enforcement of the Eight-hour law on all general and State government work.

### LEGISLATIVE TYRANNY.

Mr. Richard Powers called attention to attempts made by parties in Congress (notably by Mr. Townsend, of Cleveland, Ohio) to obtain the passage of a bill making all combinations among seamen punishable as conspiracy and mutiny.

### COMPLIMENTARY RESOLUTIONS.

A vote of thanks was tendered the Chairman (Mr. Samuel Gompers) for the able and impartial manner in which he had performed the duties of presiding officer; and also to the Amalgamated Trades and Labor Union of New York City for the courtesies shown the delegates to the Congress.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The hour having arrived for the election of officers, the Chair called for nomination for the office of Secretary.

Mr. Pollner placed in nomination Mr. W. H. Foster. Mr. W. H. Foster declined.

Mr. Weil nominated Mr. F. K. Foster, and on motion that gentleman was elected by acclamation.

For President, Messrs. Gompers, Powers, Edmondston, Blend, Phillips, McCormack, and McLogan were nominated. Messrs. Blend, Phillips, Edmondston, McCormack, and Gompers declined.

The first ballot gave the following result: Edmondston, 1; McCormack, 1; Blend, 2; Powers, 4; McLogan, 5; Gompers, 9.

On the second ballot all but the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes having been dropped, Mr. McLogan was elected by the following vote: Gompers, 10; McLogan, 11.

The Vice-Presidents were elected by acclamation, as follows:

First Vice-President, Samuel Gompers.  
Second Vice-President, Gabriel Edmonston.  
Third Vice-President, M. D. Connolly.  
Fourth Vice-President, Richard Powers.  
Fifth Vice-President, W. H. McClelland.  
Sixth Vice-President, E. M. Slack.

Mr. Robert Howard was then unanimously re-elected Treasurer of the Federation.

Mr. McCormack submitted the following recognition of the fair treatment of the Congress by the New York Press. Agreed to.

RESOLVED, That the sincere thanks of this Labor Congress be, and the same hereby are, tendered to the daily press of New York City, and its representatives upon this floor, for their accurate and just report of the proceedings of this Labor Congress, and that we shall ever hold them in grateful remembrance.

### DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDINGS.

Mr. Blair, for the Committee on Ways and Means, made the following report, which was adopted after reconsideration of that part of the proceedings previously enacted bearing on this subject:

That a *pro rata* tax of \$2.50 be levied on each thousand membership of societies here represented, and that they shall receive therefore fifty copies of the Proceedings of the Congress. Extra copies to be charged proportionate rates. GEORGE BLAIR, Chairman.

JNO. H. O'BRIEN.  
W. C. ANDERSON.  
A. D. BROCK.  
H. GUTSTADT.

### APPEAL FOR FUNDS.

The following, offered by Mr. Gompers, was adopted:

RESOLVED, That the organizations affiliated with this Federation are requested to transmit the *per capita* tax as prescribed, to the end that the means to promote the work of the organization by the Legislative Committee may not be lacking.

### LETTER FROM JOHN JARRETT.

The following letter from the President of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers was then read, and referred to the Legislative Committee, with instructions to answer it in accordance with the resolution passed:

Pittsburg, Aug. 21, 1883.

W. H. Foster, Esq., General Secretary Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada:

Dear Sir: I laid before our National Convention, which was in session in Philadelphia



from August 7th to August 16th, inclusive, the question of a "Federation of Trades," and the propriety of electing delegates to attend the Convention of your organization at New York. I was instructed to inform you that we cannot consistently affiliate ourselves with your "Federation," for the reason that at Cleveland last year your "Federation" passed a series of resolutions condemning tariff, and all laws whereby duties were levied upon imports from other countries. The Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers is heartily in favor of Tariff laws, especially on iron and steel and manufacturers thereof. Our Association has labored hard to assure its membership "a fair day's wage for a day's work," and in all mills controlled by the Association in this country we have succeeded in our efforts. We are paid far better than workmen doing the same class of work in other countries. A puddler in Pittsburg gets \$2.50 per ton of 2,240 pounds, while in England for precisely the same work he gets nearly \$2 per ton. The medium that controls this difference is the Tariff; remove it, and we must come in direct competition with English low-paid labor. We are in no hurry for any such a condition of affairs. I have no doubt but that our Association will go hand in hand with the "Federation," directly you withdraw your very severe censure on our tariff laws. In every other essential we are with you, and can fully indorse your platform and declaration of principles; and we certainly wish your present session every success, as we fully recognize the necessity of a more complete organization among the working-men of our country. Hoping much good may result from your deliberations,

Your very truly,

JOHN JARRETT, President.

#### WOMAN'S INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE.

Mrs. Charlotte Smith, on behalf of the Woman's Industrial League, asked and obtained leave to present the following:

Woman looks to labor organizations as the hope of her future. From them she expects both sympathy and assistance. She knows that laboring men understand better than any one else can the necessities of her position,—the necessity that every person shall have an opportunity to do work which shall be paid for; for there is nothing else that will give true independence. Men work against the crushing power of capital; woman has not only that to contend with, but also the power of prejudice, and added to that the fact that she is not recognized in the scheme of government. What redress has she? We see no hope for her except in concerted and organized action. In order to effect this we frankly ask for the advice, the assistance, and co-operation of labor organizations. Since the beginning woman's work has been an important factor in the world's progress. Her independent paid work has been recognized in this century at least, and the records show what an advance has been made. In 1871, only 1,836,288 women and girls were stated in the census as engaged in gainful occupations. In 1880, 2,647,157 were enumerated. While the female population increased 20.03 per cent, the increase of females employed was over 44 per cent. But in this improvement in her position woman has not yet attained the power of organized action, and it is here that we ask men who know the vast importance of organization to

aid her. In every locality where large numbers of women are at work, they should be assisted to organize and take concerted action against all oppression; and also for the purpose of perfecting themselves in various crafts, so that their work may be more valuable. By doing this, women will not only receive the direct benefit of better wages for their work, but there will be another and even a nobler result: it will attract greater attention to the subject of labor organizations, and bring about a wider recognition of their importance, and thus give these organizations more weight and power. It is not now necessary to discuss the question of woman's ability to perform arduous work. It has been asserted over and over again that woman cannot do the hard work of the world, and she has gone right on working eight, ten, even sixteen hours a day, in the face of these assertions. Has she not thus proved her right to be admitted to your ranks? We wish to call your attention to another fact which has recently been exemplified; that is, that women do stand the test of an emergency. Men associated with women in labor organizations know that when concerted action is necessary to maintain the position of the employed, women will stand by their colors even longer than men will. They have attested their nerve, courage, and energy in trying position; and with these high qualities they can well bear the burden of work, even is they have not mere brute strength.

In conclusion, we would say that we believe that the working-men have more respect for women and for true womanhood than is to be found elsewhere in society. Therefore it is to labor organizations that we as women look for aid to carry forward our best interests in the future.

The committee appointed to draft suitable memorials to the working-women of the country reported, recommending that the Legislative Committee take this matter in hand, as the committee had not sufficient time to do justice to it. On motion, it was so ordered.

On motion, a recess was taken of 10 minutes.

On resuming the business of Congress, the following resolution, pertaining to Lake seamen, was then offered by Mr. Powers, which was adopted.

RESOLVED, That this Convention recommend to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States the advisability of building a home for seamen who are decrepit, indigent, or superannuated in the service, in some place to be designated hereafter, on the Lakes.

Mr. Gutstadt submitted the following which was adopted.

RESOLVED, That the thanks of the Federation be hereby tendered to the members of the outgoing Legislative Committee for the very able and efficient manner in which they conducted the business of the Federation. This to be spread on the minutes.

On motion of Mr. Pollner, the Congress then adjourned to meet again on the first Tuesday in October, 1884, in city of Chicago, Ill.

## Open Letter.

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John Jarrett, Esq.:

Dear Sir: I am instructed by the Legislative Committee of the Federation of Trades to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of August 21, and also to correct a slight misunderstanding, entertained by the Association to which you belong, as to the course pursued by the Federation in regard to the tariff. You say, in substance, that if the Federation of Trades had not severely censured the doctrine of high tariff, it is probable that the A. A. O. I. & S. W. would have been represented at our New York session. We certainly should have been highly gratified if our forces had been strengthened by so powerful an auxiliary, and we regret exceedingly the evident misinformation upon which your action was based.

The proceedings of the Cleveland session of the Federation, to which you refer, contain no "censures on tariff." It was the unanimous desire of the delegates composing that convention that the Federation should remain unpledged upon this vexed question, and protectionists as well as free-traders voted for the motion to place the Congress upon a neutral footing in this matter. It was believed that the tariff was a political issue, and one upon which men equally honest in the labor movement might always differ. It was thought best, therefore, while so large a field for harmonious and united action remained open for trade unionists, that the tariff plank should not be forced upon those who could otherwise subscribe to our platform of principles.

I send you a copy of the Report of our last year's action, and you will find therein no evidence of the assumption you have made, that the convention was a body of free-traders. On the contrary, a large proportion of the delegates were believers in the efficacy of a high tariff. I do not hesitate to acknowledge that, as an individual, I believe in free-trade, but I

should be among the first to oppose any project making our trades-unions agents in furthering that creed. Are we not right in thinking that questions of this nature, upon which there is no possibility of uniting workmen, should not be used as wedges in keeping them apart?

You and myself, and those we represent, are practically agreed as to the necessity of the work our organizations are formed to accomplish. We think alike as to the ends to be arrived at, and as to the value of our societies as agents in improving the social condition of our class. We realize, also, the magnitude of the labor required, the power of the common foe opposing us, and the necessity for unity of thought and action among all those who espouse our cause. I submit to your own judgment, therefore, that we should studiously avoid all paths that lead to dissension.

The Federation of Trades believes that the concentration of our forces is imperative, if we are in full measure to accomplish the aimed-at industrial and social reforms.

We, therefore,—while recognizing the undoubted right of all organizations to choose their own course,—urge upon our fellow-laborers the importance of amalgamation. We cordially invite the iron and steel workers to stand in line with us, and can safely assure them that nothing in the platform of the Federated Trades can be construed as interfering with their right to take such action as they please, as an individual association, in the matter of the tariff.

Hoping that you will lay this communication before your associates, I am, with the heartiest wishes for the prosperity of yourself and society, fraternally yours,

FRANK K. FOSTER,

Secretary Federated Trades.

Cambridge, Mass., Sept. 17, 1883.

## To Working Girls and Women.

The Federation of Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada makes to you the following appeal: We recognize the fact that the well-being of the working people depends in no small degree upon themselves. The law of competition in the industrial world bears with crushing effect upon the weaker elements in society. The benefits to be derived by organization among wage-earners can hardly be overestimated. United action is the lever that will move the huge weight of poverty from many deserving workers. Its value is appreciated by the employing class, and in all departments of commerce and exchange we find system reduced to a science. It is only the ignorant laborer who presumes to undertake great enterprises without proper discipline. The army of industrial organization is fast increasing. Recruits by the thousands are monthly falling in line. The lesson is rapidly being learned by the *proletariat* that the people must "work out their own salvation." If social evils bear hardly upon working-men, and they are taught by experience that the power of combination can do much to help them; if they find that their labor societies assist them in obtaining better wages, and consequently better homes and better general surroundings,—how much more may we expect from this remedial force when applied by working-women to their own case?

There is to-day, in the most civilized country on the face of the globe, a vast multitude of girls and women condemned to struggle for very existence. They are doubly handicapped by poverty and by sex. Neither sentiment nor humanity counts in the race for gain. The weaker become the prey of the stronger when

the labor market is glutted, and keen competition disposes of the products of labor at the lowest market-price. The toil of our seamstresses, shop-girls, and factory operatives is exploited by hard taskmasters and soulless corporations. Thousands of tragedies are daily enacted, where virtue falls a victim to want, and shame springs from social needs. It is the mission of the labor movement to shield and protect those who cannot defend themselves. It is the creed of the labor movement that labor should be fairly paid for, that the laborer should be more than a passive factor in the contract that disposes of his labor. It is further the creed of the labor movement that equal amounts of work should bring the same price, whether performed by man or woman. In other words, that the value to the purchaser, not the necessity of the seller, should fix the standard of a day's wages.

In the carrying out of this belief there is needed the hearty co-operation of all interested parties. The working-women of the land should array themselves under the banner of united labor. It is the hope of the Federated Trades to assist in bringing about this much-needed result. Those who desire to form labor societies will be supplied with all necessary information, by applying to the Secretary, and will be either furnished with an organizer or directed to the proper source from which to obtain one.

We solicit your correspondence, and pledge you our support.

Faternally,

Legislative Committee Federated Trades.

FRANK K. FOSTER, Secretary.

10 Wendell street, Cambridge, Mass.



